

To: Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Sporting events provide local economies a vital economic boost. Local governments, businesses, and neighborhoods depend on the funds a successful sports team brings in. There have been few teams as successful as the Kansas City Chiefs in this regard. Every home game is sold out, season after season, and the boost to our city's economy is palpable. All of this is made possible by the NFL's blackout rule, and could be threatened by proposed changes to that rule.

A sellout at Arrowhead Stadium is great for this city's economy. Hotel rooms are full of out of town fans, and local restaurants are packed with those fans before and after the game. Fans who can't make it to the game flood to their local watering hole to watch the game. Nearby businesses and homes sell parking spots for fans that just want to be nearby, and local grocery stores provide all of the goodies for a perfect tailgate. After 41 seasons here in Kansas City, it is safe to say that our economy relies on this consistent boost in the fall.

All of this is contingent upon the stadium being full week in and week out, and Arrowhead has sold out all but two games in the last 25 years. But sellouts are so common because of the effectiveness of the NFL's blackout rule. The recently proposed FCC guidelines changes would mean that cable companies could circumvent the rule, and games may not be broadcast for free over the air. If that happens, the rule would lose its effectiveness and all of this could be undone.

It isn't just the economy that could be harmed by these changes, but the Kansas City community as a whole. Chiefs games are popular because it is a community event, and everyone with a TV can take part, whether or not they can afford cable. If proposed changes become law, local bars may not be able to compete with larger chains that can afford to purchase the ability to air blacked out games.

Please reconsider your proposed changes to the NFL Blackout rule. Kansas City and other NFL cities around the country could lose too much.

- Alec Bachman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alec Bachman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.